



Under The Scope

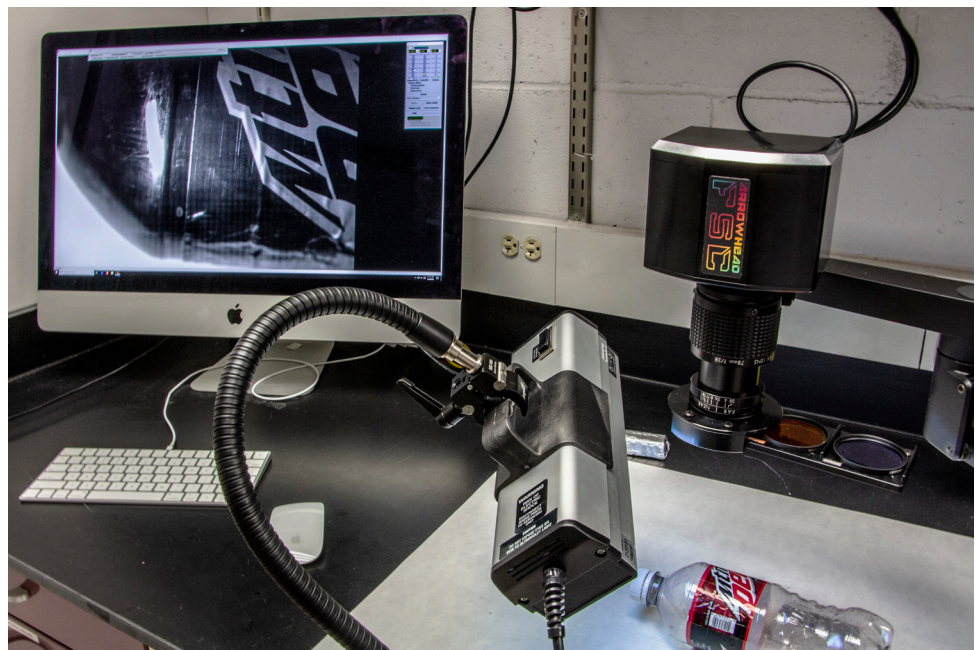
March 2022

Latent Prints Or DNA?

Due to updated submission policies, the DNA discipline is no longer processing touch DNA on most property crime cases. However, these items of evidence can still be submitted for latent print processing examinations.

New Technology

The Full Spectrum Imaging System (FSIS) allows crime laboratory personnel to screen evidence using shortwave ultraviolet light or alternate light sources and capture high-resolution images of located latent prints. The FSIS can be used to visualize treated and untreated latent prints from curved, textured, and flat porous and nonporous surfaces, including those with busy backgrounds and reflective surfaces. This new tool allows for the best examination of evidence to take place within the laboratory setting. Field processing of items may prevent laboratory use of FSIS.



Wear Gloves!

When handling evidence for latent print processing, wear gloves and change them frequently. Crime laboratory personnel often compare prints developed from items of evidence or lifts from a crime scene only to identify officers who made the lifts or handled the evidence. When this happens, it consumes valuable time and delays identification of actual subjects involved in investigations.

Subjects For Comparisons

When including subjects for comparison, make every effort to obtain known impressions, including fully captured tenprint and palmprint cards.

If unable to obtain known impressions, at a minimum, include each subject's:

- Name (First, Middle, Last)
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number

If available, also include the State Identification Number (SID) or FBI Number to assist crime laboratory personnel in locating known impressions for comparison.

Major Case Prints/Additional Known Impressions Needed

The purpose of major case prints is to record all available friction ridge detail so complete and accurate comparisons can be completed. Upon receipt of a report requesting specific areas of additional known impressions or major case prints, collect and submit a recording of those areas of friction ridge skin.

Major Case Prints:

- Fingers
(1st, 2nd, and 3rd joint regions)
- Tips of fingers
- Sides of fingers
- Palms (including writer's palm)

For questions regarding collection of known impressions, contact your local MSHP laboratory.



Postmortem Identification Requests

The Latent Print discipline can aid in the identification of deceased remains through multiple approaches. Crime laboratory personnel can work with desiccated skin, mummified remains, or postmortem impressions collected from medical examiners and coroners. Impressions collected for postmortem identification may be submitted in either hardcopy format or as high-resolution digital images using routine evidence submission procedures. Alternatively, high-resolution digital images may be submitted through an online link (recommended). All submissions must be accompanied by a phone call to your local MSHP laboratory.

Postmortem Identification Request Submission Form:

<https://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/CL01Web/newRequest.htm>

For questions regarding submission requirements for postmortem impressions, contact your local MSHP laboratory.